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Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /082 W
----------280031Z 015632 /63
R 271137Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1206
INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 4191

CINCPAC FOR PLOLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PK, IN
SUBJECT: INDO-PAKISTAN RELATIONS

1. INDIAN AMBASSADOR BAJPAI MET APRIL 26 WITH PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO TO HAND OVER TO HIM LETTER FROM INDIAN PM DESAI. LETTER WAS REPLY TO EARLIER MESSAGE CONVEYED TO DESAI BY ADDITIONAL FOREIGN SECRETARY SHAHNAWAZ IN DELHI EARLIER THIS MONTH. INDIAN DCM DOSHI TOLD POL COUNSELOR THAT IN HIS LETTER MORARJI WROTE BHUTTO THAT HE (DESAI) "FAILED TO APPRECIATE" THE NEED FOR A THIRD WORLD ECONOMIC SUMMIT, THE MAIN PITCH ACCORDING TO DOSHI IN THE INITIAL BHUTTO LETTER. DESAI ALSO USED THE OCCASION TO REITERATE GOI SUPPORT FOR NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH PAKISTAN AND THE SIMLA AGREEMENT.

2. DOSHI REPORTED THAT HIS AMBASSADOR FOUND BHUTTO RELAXED
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AND IN GOOD SPIRITS MUCH OF THEIR HALF HOUR MEETING WAS SPENT IN GOSSIP ABOUT INDIAN POLITICAL LEADERS, NOTABLY PILOO MODY, A MUTUAL FRIEND OF BAJPAI AND BHUTTO.

3. IN ANOTHER CONCDRSATION WHICH TOUCHED ON PAK-INDIAN DEVELOPMENTS, FOREIGN SECRETARY AGHA SHAHI TOLD CHARGE THAT GOP HAD INITIALLY BEEN PLEASED WITH LOW KEY COVERAGE IN INDIAN

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MEDIA OF POST-ELECTION DEVELOPMENTS IN PAKISTAN. MORE LATELY, SHAHI WENT ON TO COMPLAIN, ALL INDIA RADIO HAD STEPPED UP ITS COVERAGE OF BBC ACCOUNTS OF EVENTS HERE. SHAHI REPEATED FAMILIAR RECENT GOP LINE THAT THESE BBC ACCOUNTS WERE DISTORTED
AND MENTIONED THAT PAKS HAD PROTESTED TO HMG ABOUT BROADCASTS. HE ALSO SAID THAT GOP HAD JUST LEARNED THAT JANATA PARTY GROUP HAD DEMONSTRATED IN FRONT OF PAK EMBASSY IN NEW DELHI. GOP INTENDED TO PROTEST THIS TO INDIAN AMBASSADOR.

4. IRONICALLY, DOSHI, IN DISCUSSING COVERAGE OF PAK DEVELOP-MENTS IN INDIA, COMPLAINED TO POL COUNSELOR OF A PROFOUND LACK OF INTEREST ACRZYS THE BORDER IN WHAT WAS GOING ON HERE. HE NOTED THAT SUCH NEWSMEN AS GIRILAL JAIN, INDER MALHOTRA, AND KULDIP NAYAR, WHO HAD WRITTEN MUCH AND WELL ABOUT PAKISTAN DURING EARLIER CRISES HERE, HAD TURNED THEIR ATTENTION ELSEWHERE. HE SAID THAT THE SENIOR LEVELS OF MEA ALSO SEEMED RELATIVELY UNINTERESTED IN PAKISTAN INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS. DOSHI ATTRIBUTED THIS TO WHAT HE CONSIDERS THE LONG TERM DECLINE IN INDIAN INTEREST IN PAKISTAN AND THE DISAPPEARANCE FROM THE MEA CORRIDORS OF THE SENIOR OFFICIALS WHO HAD LONG FOCUSSED ON INDO-PAK RELATIONS.
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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